

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12

TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00

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TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104942

E. O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PO, XA

SUBJECT: NATO ARMS IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA

1. NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR GUNNENG CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SPRINGSTEEN MAY 31 TO DELIVER AIDE MEMOIRE ON SUBJECT OF ALLEGED USE BY PORTUGAL OF NATO ARMS IN THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES. GUNNENG SAID SIMILIAR NOTES WERE BEING PRESENTED IN ALL NATO CAPITALS.

2. MEMOIRE CITES RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT 27 TH UNGA CALLING FOR END TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL BY NATO
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COUNTRIES AS WELL AS DISCUSSION OF SAME DEMAND BY UN/ OAU INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF EXPERTS FOR THE SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF COLONIALISM AND APARTHEID IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, HELD IN OSLO APRIL 9-14. ALTHOUGH NOTING NORWEGIAN FONMIN VAARVIK' S STATEMENT TO CONFERENCE THAT NATO AS AN ORGANIZATION DOES NOT SUPPLY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PORTUGAL, THE MEMOIRE ASSERTS THAT QUOTE THERE WAS, NEVERTHELESS, A CLEAR TENDENCY TO ASSOCIATE NATO QUOTE WITH PORTUGUESE POLICIES IN AFRICA. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS, ACCORDING TO MEMOIRE, MUST QUOTE BE ATTRIBUTED TO THOSE NATO COUNTRIES WHICH CONTINUE TO GRANT PORTUGAL ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID WHICH MAY BE USED IN THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES IN AFRICA QUOTE. NOTE CONCLUDES WITH EXPRESSION OF NORWEGIAN SUPPORT FOR ENDING DELIVERY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PORTUGAL. GUNNENG

SAID HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO VIEWS EXPRESSED IN AIDE MEMOIRE.

3. SPRINGSTEEN REPLIED THAT US POLICY ON ARMS TO PORTUGAL WELL KNOWN. ANY MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED TO PORTUGAL IS STRICTLY FOR NATO DEFENSIVE PURPOSES, AND OFFICIAL PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES ARE REQUIRED IN EACH TRANSACTION THAT THE EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE USED OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA. SPRINGSTEEN SAID USG HAS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION AND ENERGY TO IMPLEMENTING ITS ARMS EMBARGO ON THE PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES, AND WE BELIEVE THAT OUR RECORD IN THIS RESPECT IS COMPLETELY IN LINE WITH THE NORWEGIAN POLICY SUPPORTED IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE.

4. SPRINGSTEEN ADDED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS FROM TIME TO TIME, FROM OTHER AFRICAN STATES, THAT NATO-SUPPLIED ARMS HAVE TURNED UP IN THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, BUT CAREFUL INVESTIGATION HAS FAILED TO CONFIRM THESE CLAIMS.

5. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ASKED GUNNENG IF NORWAY PLANNED TO RAISE THIS ISSUE AT NATO MINISTERIAL IN COPENHAGEN NEXT MONTH. GUNNENG REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THIS POINT, BUT COMMENTED (SPEAKING OFF RECORD) THAT HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THE GON DOES NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO DO SO, AND THAT PURPOSE OF THE PRESENTATION OF TODAY' S CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTE WAS TO AVOID NECESSITY FOR BRINGING ISSUE UP AT NATO MINISTERIAL.

6. AIDE MEMOIRE BEING POUCHED. RUSH

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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